

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

MALAYSIAN GOLF ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANGELS OF MERCY GOLF SERIES IN AID OF MERCY MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur, 31 OCTOBER 2017 – Malaysia Golf Association today launched the ANGELS OF MERCY GOLF SERIES in response to MERCY Malaysia’s clarion call to raise funds for humanitarian aid. The golf series will kick off with its first tournament on 3 December 2017, at the Sungai Long Golf & Country Resort, Kajang, with proceeds channelled to the Rohingya refugees in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh. The rest of the tournaments will continue with a series of 12 tournaments in the next two years.

“The crisis in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, is mounting with each passing day, with more refugees continuing to arrive daily at the refugee camps. Two of our Primary Healthcare Clinics are already operating at maximum capacity, with our doctors seeing more than 400 patients every day. We urgently need to expand our clinics and services, and the Angels of Mercy charity golf series is most timely,” said Dato’ *Dr Ahmad Faizal* Mohd Perdaus, President of MERCY Malaysia.

The situation at Cox’s Bazar has begun to settle, with the Bangladesh government coordinating the movement of the refugees and slowly mapping out the settlements with the assistance of international NGOs. This has helped NGOs such as MERCY Malaysia to identify the most pressing needs of the refugees, and plan aid accordingly.

“From International Organisation of Migration’s (IOM) reports, we know now that than 58% of the refugees are actually children under the age of 17, and 51% are women or girls. We have done ground assessments and plans are now underway to build a Mother and Child Centre at one of our clinics to provide maternity services and others,” he said.

The Mother & Child Centre will also house a Child-Friendly Space, where children can play, learn and rest in a safe and comfortable zone. Currently, the children roam the streets freely and aimlessly, raising concerns on their safety and childhood development. Dr Faizal added that MERCY Malaysia has already sent out recruitments for volunteer Paediatricians and Obstetrics and Gynaecologists to join their deployment teams later in November.

“The Angels for MERCY golf series is Malaysia Golf’s Association’s (MGA) initiative to bring about positive changes to the golf industry,” said YB Senator Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Anwar Mohd Nor, President of the Malaysia Golf Association.

He added, “We aim to collaborate with MERCY Malaysia, corporate bodies, supporting industries and MGA’s affiliated golf clubs, to create a ‘Swing Fore for Charity’ fever among Malaysian golfers. This first tournament is themed ‘GoGolf for Rohingya’, in recognition of the dire condition in Cox’s Bazar right now.”

At the media launch, guest and members of the media also had a chance to view a replica of a refugee hut at Cox's Bazar, where close to 1 million displaced Rohingyans are staying in cramped and over-crowded camps. The hut made of bamboo poles, tarpaulin sheets and black plastic sheets, measures 8 feet square and fits a family of between five to eight people.

'The high density population calls for an immediate aid intervention, with communicable and water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid spreading fast. There is also high need for Psycho-social Support for the refugees, which we are planning to provide through our Mental and Psychosocial Services programme,'" said Dr Faizal.

MERCY Malaysia is trying to raise RM5 million to support its humanitarian efforts in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh, while a minimum of RM1 million is urgently needed to help internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Northern Rakhine, Myanmar.

Each flight is priced at RM15,000 and all proceeds will be channelled to MERCY Malaysia's Rohingya Relief Fund. Golfers who are keen to participate in the Angels of MERCY golf series may call Ms Sara: +603-9283 7300 (sara@mgaonline.com.my) or Azizah: +603-2142 2007 (Azizah@mercy.org.my) to book a flight. Alternatively, donations can be made to MERCY Malaysia's 'Rohingya Relief Fund' by logging on to www.mercy.org.my.

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About MERCY Malaysia

MERCY Malaysia is a non-profit organisation focused on providing medical relief, sustainable health-related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations, both locally and internationally. MERCY Malaysia recognises the value of working with partners and volunteers as well as providing opportunities for individuals to serve with professionalism. We uphold the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and hold ourselves accountable to our donors and beneficiaries. For more information, please proceed to www.mercy.org.my

How is MERCY Malaysia funded?

To ensure independence and impartiality, MERCY Malaysia relies on donations from the general public for financial support. A portion of our income is obtained from institutional donors, individual government grants and other international organizations, which are given on project basis. MERCY Malaysia spends 80% of its income to conduct relief operations and support.

Important Note to Media: Usage of Wordmark MERCY Malaysia

In order to avoid confusion with other organisation(s) that uses "Mercy" as the organisation's name or part of the organisation's name, please take note that in addressing the name of our organisation, the wordmark for MERCY Malaysia is with capitalised "MERCY", followed by the word "Malaysia". When describing the organisation, the term "MERCY Malaysia" must always be used in full, and should not be partially referred to as "MERCY", or "Mercy". Thank you for your cooperation.

